MICHIGAN FARMER,

AND WESTERN AGRICULTURALIST.

"Agriculture is the noblest, as it is the most natural pursuit of Man."

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COMMUNICATIONS.

For the Michigan Farmer,

AGRICULTURAL CHEMISTRY.

(PRACTICAL AND THEORETICAL.)

NUMBER XII.

Means of Preserving and Enriching Soils by Manures.

To Agriculturists:

Agricultural Chemistry teaches us that such materials as are removed from a soil, by the crops which are taken therefrom, must be replaced in order to keep it in a productive condition.

Different plants vary much in the demands which they make upon the soil for materials to supply their growth. While some, such as wheat, draws large quantities from this source, others, such as lucern, peas, and potatoes, receive thus comparatively a small quantity. We do not wish to be understood, as saying that all the matter which is removed in a crop, which grows upon a certain piece of land, is received from that land, and, consequently must be restored to it, in order to make it again productive for a similar crop; for we do know that much of the substance of plants is received from matters, which are at all times in the air, and which are distributed nearly as much in one place as in another. We do not pretend to say that such materials must be incorporated into the soil in order that it be fruitful. But such matters, as we do say ought to be returned to soils, in order to preserve their fertility, are such as are actually removed therefrom by those plants which grew upon it. And we say still further, that in many soils, the fertility is increased by adding more of such matters than have been removed.

Earthy matters are not the only substances which should be thus supplied; for other materials which enter largely into the composition of vegetable matter are received directly from the soil.

It is well known that oxygen and hydrogen, or in other words, water, is received principally from this source. By the action of the living organism, it may undergo chemical and vital changes, so as to be converted into vegetable matter; or it may remain as water, and as such circulate through the plant. But as the necessity of this fluid is so perfectly understood by all, and as it is generally supplied by nature in the showers of heaven, we will pass it by.

We will now direct our attention to such as can be advantageously supplied by the agriculturist. We will first notice nitrogen. Every portion of plants contain nitrogen in varying proportions, but the seeds and roots are those parts which are the most liberally supplied. Now the question arises: Where is this nitrogen obtained? Some have contended that it is received from the atmosphere. But we think it can be satisfactorily demonstrated, that but a very small part, if any, is received from this quarter, notwithstanding about three fourths of the atmosphere is composed of this element. Unless nitrogen is supplied in some other form, plants will not thrive well. Experience teaches us that the main source of nitrogen is ammonia in some of its combinations. The atmosphere is at all times impregnated more or less with ammonia, which is occasionally brought to the earth by rain; but this is not sufficient for the demands of the agriculturist. It might be sufficient to enable the plant to produce a single seed capable of re-producing itself; but when we wish to supply the wants of men and animals, we must resort to some artificial means to supply the ammonia which is the source of the nitrogen. This is done by manure, the value of which may be much enhanced by artificial means. Stable and barn-yard manures contain more or less carbonate of ammonia—but as this is very volatile, it is apt to escape, unless fixed by some chemical process. By sprinkling upon it dilute, sulphuric, nitric, or other acids, the carbonate becomes decomposed, and is converted into a fixed salt, and is thus preserved for the supply of vegetation. The same object may be accomplished by adding small quantities of Plaster of Paris, (or Sulphate of Lime,) and a chemical change taking place, produces a fixed salt of ammonia and carbonate of lime. There is another method of fixing the ammonia by mixing it with finely divided charcoal and burnt mud. By this means the ammonia is retained by virtue of the affinity which the clay and charcoal exert for the ammonia.—Another method still, is, to mix with the manure Magnesian Limestone, or the ashes of coal. The ammonia which is brought to the earth by rain is in the form of a carbonate. This salt is very volatile, and unless some means are used to render it fixed, it is soon lost, by being diffused through the air. Hence it is a matter of considerable importance to agriculturists how to render it fixed, so that it may thus be preserved to supply with nitrogen the growing plant. The same means that are used to render it fixed in manure are applicable here. The most commonly used of which is sulphate of lime. This article proves beneficial in two ways; first by retaining the ammonia, and secondly by supplying lime.

One pound of ammonia will furnish 60 lbs. of corn with its nitrogen—but more would be required to supply the same amount of wheat.

Fresh bones, wool, hair, hoofs, and horn, are manures containing nitrogen, and phosphates, and for this reason, are fit for furnishing materials to aid in the growth of plants.

Pulverized charcoal is a valuable addition to argillaceous soils. It renders it more porous; and on account of its affinity for ammonia, this is preserved for the use of plants.

Much more might be said upon this subject, but our limits will not allow us to proceed further at this time. Agricultural Chemistry has done much, and will do more still for the science of Agriculture. I call it a science, for it is well worthy of the name; and a great science it is, too, which requires the labor of the mind, and the labor of the body also; both of which are necessary in turn to render the mental man strong, healthy, active, and useful.

JOHN McLEAN.

Jackson, Jan. 12, 1844.

The Michigan Farmer.—The St. Clair Banner very justly remarks, that they "hope the farmers of this state, before they send abroad for a paper adapted to their particular interests, will first liberally patronize the one at *home*—that well conducted periodical, the *Michigan Farmer*, published semi-monthly at Jackson, by D. D. T. Moore, at one dollar per annum." The next volume commences in Febraary, when the publisher intends to enlarge and otherwise materially improve the work. We can not too strongly recommend it to the patronage of every farmer.—*Grand Rapids Enquirer.*

For the Michigan Farmer.

An Experiment in Raising Potatoes.

MR. EDITOR:—Having noticed in the 6th number of the Farmer, an article stating that different parts of the Potato, when planted at the same time, would produce a crop maturing at different periods—if all cultivated in the same manner and upon the same quality of soil—induced me to try an experiment upon a small scale. On the 28th of May last, (rather late,) I planted three rows of potatoes, in drills, putting one piece in a place, about one foot apart in the drills, and 3 1-2 in the rows—the seed for which I cut from that part of the potato known as the *seed end*, using about one half of the potato. On the same day, planted by the side of the former, using the butt end; hoed once, and on the same day.

The result was, that the potatoes from the seed end ripened ten days or two weeks sooner than the others. The potatoes were smaller, which I attribute to too much seed being put in a place; for, in cutting from the seed end, we frequently get from three to four eyes upon a piece—on the contrary, from the other part, owing to the greater sparseness of eyes, we seldom get more than one. The yield from the seed end was about one sixth less than the other.

In the communication above referred to, it is also stated that small potatoes should not be planted, as they will invariably produce their like in return. This, I consider, arises not so much from the size of the seed as from using too much in a hill; for in planting small ones they are usually planted whole, not considering that they have nearly as many eyes, and will produce nearly as many stalks, as large ones, which causes too many potatoes to be crowded into a small space to attain a fair size.

In my experiment the seed was all cut from potatoes of good size, of the variety known as "Neshannocks." The only point fully establish d, is, that potatoes produced from the seed end mature earlier than from other parts. I may next season pursue the experiment, not only in this but different points, and note the result with more precision and accuracy: and I hope others will depart far enough from the beaten track which our fathers have trod, to engage in the important work of improving our different varieties of grain and vegetables, by careful and long continued experiment—not forgetting to send the result of their experience and observation for publication in the "Farmer," thus contributing to the promotion of good husbandry and gladdening the heart of its editor.

J. A. SEVERANCE.

Pulaski, Mich., Dec. 27, 1843.

BE vigilant in your attention to stock of every description; otherwise, in the Spring, they will be in a low condition, and require half the Summer to recover from the effects of Winter starvation. Provide good sheds in the farm yard, to which the cattle may retire during the prevalence of snow storms.

For the Michigan Farmer.

Carrots.

MR. EDITOR:—I was happy to see the notice of Mr. CURTISS' crop of Carrots, mentioned in the last number of your paper.—I am a stranger among you, but having spent the last year principally in traveling through different parts of the state, I had an opportunity of examining the various soils, and was satisfied that, in most places, the soil was happily adapted to the cultivation of the carrot, and urged the citizens, on all proper occasions, to turn their attention to the cultivation of that crop. From long experience, I put a high estimate on that vegetable. I deem it one of the best articles of food that can be produced for stock, and nothing is so productive. I used to say, I thought ten or twelve hundred bushels might be raised from an acre, and to satisfy myself what might be effected by the best management, I had a piece of ground put into the best possible order. The drills were six inches apart and, when hoed the second time, the plants were left so near in the drill that they, at harvest time, in most places, touched each other. They were of the long orange color; very large and long. That there might be no mistake, I saw the ground measured twice—but, taking down no minutes, and it being three years since, I have forgotten the exact number of feet of ground, but the amount produced was at the rate of *seventeen hundred bushels* and the fraction of a hundred, per acre. Sixty-three bushels was the crop, and my man assured me that he had been liberal in his measure.

There are several contingences attendant on a crop of carrots, such as bad seeds, the destruction by worms, spots of ground badly prepared, &c. which render it extremely difficult to obtain a full crop. In these respects I was very fortunate, and believe my crop was a maximum one. I have no idea that I could raise such a crop, on a large field, one time out of ten, yet believe I could, by the acre, average twelve hundred bushels, taking one season with another.

The butchers, at Syracuse, have paid three shillings per bushel for carrots to be fed to their animals, deeming that sort of food better than any other. Estimating the crop of Mr. Curtiss at three shillings, his acre would, for seven hundred bushels, produce $262 50.—At Boston, for many years, carrots have been preferred for horses, and sold for four shillings per bushel, and the price so invariable that it was common for men to say, when sowing their carrots, that they knew what price they should get for them.

Many people apprehend that the expense of labor in cultivating this crop would be an objection. It is not so. But, being pressed for time, I must defer my remarks on the mode of preparing the ground, &c. &c., to another opportunity that I shall endeavor to improve.

O. PARKER.

Jackson, Jan. 4, 1844.

AN exchange paper says it is as difficult to tell where moderate drinking ends and drunkenness begins, as it is to tell when a pig ceases to be a pig, and becomes a hog.

For the Michigan Farmer.

Economical Sheep Mangers.

Take 4 boards 1 1-4 inch thick, 1 foot wide, and 15 to 20 feet long; 4 boards same width, and not less than 3 feet long; 4 pieces of scantling, 2 feet 9 inches long, for posts—to which nail the above described boards so as to make an oblong pen or yard, leaving a space all round between the upper and lower boards, of 9 inches,—and you have a better and cheaper manger than you can possibly build on any other plan. Being not less than three feet wide, the manger will hold a *foddering* for the flock, which will speedily surround it, and if they get their heads in, will not dare to pull them out for fear some other one will get therein: therefore they will not scatter the spears of hay by running from place to place, which they will do if they eat from racks.

In New England, I never wintered my 150 sheep as well or as cheap, as when, at the commencement of close hard weather, I shut them up in the dry basement of a barn, 37 by by 52 feet, with about 2 rods square outside, containing a trough supplied with water by an aqueduct, to which they could go at any time, and fed in mangers as above described.—Sheep thus confined will eat a portion of coarse feed, every day, without regard to weather—and in the spring be in better condition than if suffered to run at large, and spoil your farm by knawing the face of it, &c. Thy servant has been employed about sheep from his youth up, and therefore *knows*.

E. T.

Wayne County, Jan. 2, 1844.

The following anecdote may give encouragement to the industrious:

Not long ago a country gentleman had an estate of £200 a year, which he kept in his own hands until he found himself so much in debt, that to satisfy his creditors he was obliged to sell the half, and let the remainder to a farmer for twenty years. Towards the expiration of the lease, the farmer coming one day to pay his rent, asked the gentleman whether he would sell his farm. "Why, will you buy it?" said the gentleman. "If you will part with it, and we can agree," replied the farmer. "That is exceedingly strange," said the gentleman, "pray tell me how it happens that, while I could not live upon twice as much land, for which I pay no rent, you are regularly paying me a hundred pounds a year for your farm, and are able, in a few years, to purchase it?" "The reason is plain," answered the farmer, "you sat still and said *go*—I got up and said *come*—you laid in bed and enjoyed your estate—I rose in the morning and minded my business."

U. S. LAND SALES.—By the reports of the Commissioner of the General Land Office, the sales of public lands the last year, have amounted to 1,639,674 acres, making $2,000,000, and exceeding last year's sales $600,000. Only 10,000 acres have been sold above the minimum price.

From the New Genesee Farmer.

Wintering Stock.

According to the official returns at the last census, there were, in the State of New-York,

Horses and mules,	474,543
Neat cattle,	1,911,244
Sheep,	5,118,777
Swine,	1,900,065

Estimating the cost of wintering these animals at a low rate—say $10 a head for horses and mules; $6 for neat cattle; 50 cents for sheep; and 80 cents a head for swine—and the total cost, the coming winter, will be $20,292,334. I believe it is practicable to save, on an average, 20 per cent. of this large sum, or over four millions of dollars, and have the above named stock in a better condition next Spring than is usually witnessed in this State. How is this to be done? I answer—by cheapening the cost of warming the bodies of all these animals up to 98 degrees of Fahrenheit, night and day, for the next six months, whatever may be the temperature of the surrounding air. All this enduring animal heat is produced by the combustion of hay, oats, straw, roots, &c., taken into the animal machine; and the fire is kept up by the ceaseless action of the lungs and heart—the latter bringing fuel from the digestive organs, and the former serving as a bellows to add fresh fuel to the flame.

Feed a rattlesnake a full meal, and he will live a whole year without a particle more food. This is a cold-blooded animal, and the temperature of its body is only one or two degrees above that of the atmosphere. Feed a pigeon in the same manner, and without more food it will die in three or four days, of starvation.—All the carbon in its food, and a portion of that in its living structure, will have been expelled from its capacious lungs, and truly burned to a gas, like the oil in a lamp, to maintain its body at a heat of 102 degrees.

According to Boussingault, a horse expels from his lungs 97 1-8 oz. of carbon, and a cow 69 9-10 oz., in 24 hours; which comes from the food of those animals. These quantities vary according to the capacity of the lungs, and the frequency of their contraction and expansion. It is also materially varied by the circumstance, whether the oxygen gas inhaled be condensed by cold, or expanded by heat. When an animal is surrounded by a cold, dense atmosphere, more animal heat is needed, more oxygen is contained in a cubic foot of air, more comes into the circulation of the blood through the lungs, more food is consumed by combustion, and more heat is generated to keep up the vital fire of life. Hibernating animals, like the bear and coon, live for months in a torpid state, having all the functions of life suspended, except a feeble respiration, and a slow circulation of the blood, by which the action of the oxygen from the air consumes slowly the fat of these animals. They usually come out poor in the spring.

Exercise increases the action of the respiratory organs, and the consumption of animal fat. The food that will keep a horse fat in a warm stable, will hardly prevent his starving when driven 35 or 40 miles a day. In the latter case he will expel twice as much carbon from his lungs as in the former; and the excess of heat in the system will escape in a copious perspiration, and in the discharge of much vapor from the nostrils. All our domestic animals, then, are living furnaces, which will have to be warmed by burning hay, oats, and corn for the next six months. If these furnaces, which number about 10,000,000, are placed out of doors, exposed to rain, hail, and snow, to strong currents of cold air—tell me, honest cultivators of the soil, how much of this precious fuel will be lost? I could adduce not a few accurate experiments, and well known facts, all going to prove that the loss, in this State alone, would not be less than five million of dollars. One million of this will, I trust, be saved by the use of the few warm, comfortable stables and sheds in the State. Four millions will be irrecoverably lost. Four of every five of our farmers will try to warm *all out-doors*, by burning their hay and grain in millions of little fires, at a needless loss of 20 to 50 per cent!

The carbon expelled from the lungs of an adult man in 24 hours, according to Desprete, will heat 370 lbs. of water at the temperature of 32 degrees to 83,3 degrees. It will be, or rather should be remembered, that it takes far less heat to warm a pound of bone, muscle, and fat, to 98 degrees, than a pound of water. It requires, however, a large quantity of heat, to warm all the cold air taken into the lungs of a cow, or a steer, in 24 hours, if it be at 32 degrees when inhaled, and 90 or 98 degrees when exhaled. The radiation of heat from the body is also governed, in a good degree, by the temperature of the surrounding atmosphere.

Bank up your stables, if they need it; ceil them well with rough boards on the inside, and fill in the space with tan bark, horse dung, pea straw, or some other non-conductor of heat. Keep all your domestic animals *warm, dry* and *quiet*, if you desire them to yield the largest return in fat, tallow, milk, butter, cheese, and wool, from any given amount of suitable food. D. L.

Buffalo, Nov, 18, 1843.

Salting Horses.—A curious fact is mentioned in Parker's treatise on salt. "A person who kept sixteen farming horses, made the following experiment with seven of them which had been accustomed to eat salt with their food. Lumps of rock salt were laid in their mangers, and these lumps, previously weighed, were examined weekly, to ascertain what quantity had been consumed, and it was repeatedly found that whenever these horses were fed on hay and corn, they consumed only about 2 1-4 or 3 ounces per day; but that when they were fed with new hay, they took 6 ounces per day." This would convince us of the expediency of permitting our cattle the free use of salt at all times; and it can not be given in so convenient a form as rock salt, it being much more palatable than the other article in a refined state, and by far cheaper. A good lump should be kept in a box by the side of the animal, without fear that it will be taken to excess.—*Selected.*

LADIES' DEPARTMENT.

A Good Example for the Ladies.

A lady, residing in the town of Henrietta, has already commenced manufacturing a piece of *flannel*, to be exhibited and offered for premium at the first Fair of the Jackson County Agricultural Society. This is an example worthy of all imitation—and we trust the ladies in this, and other counties where agricultural fairs are to be held the ensuing season, will present abundant evidence of their skill and industry.

What say the farmers' wives and daughters in Jackson, Washtenaw, and other counties wherein premiums are or will be offered on Domestic Manufactures, &c.? Will they not enter the lists of competitors, and each make an effort to obtain the highest premium?—Girls, we pray you to respond *affirmatively* to the above—although you would probably give a contrary answer to *another question* which we (as a bachelor,) *might propose!*

Pumpkin Pies.—A correspondent of the Northampton Courier thus addresses the editor:

"The almost universal mode in New England of preparing pumpkins for pies, (a kind which is as universally admired,) is that of stewing the pumpkin after it has been cut in pieces, and passing through one or two other processes before it is in a state for baking—thereby making much labor. I think a more preferable mode of preparation and one which I believe will be highly valued by all housewives, is that of *grating* the pumpkin; after grating, add the milk, eggs, &c., in the same proportions as when stewed. Your domestic readers will find that pies made in this way are equally nice and even more delicate, with one third the labor."

Chicken Salad.—Boil a chicken that weighs not more than a pound and a half.—When very tender, take it up, cut it in small strips, and make the following sauce, and turn over it: Boil four eggs three minutes—take them out of the shells, mash and mix them with a couple of table-spoonfuls of olive oil, or melted butter, two-thirds of a tumbler of vinegar, a tea spoonful of mixed mustard, a tea-spoonful of salt, a little pepper, and essence of celery, if you have it—if not, it can be dispensed with. In making chicken salad, the dressing should not be put on till a few minutes before the salad is to be eaten; as by laying in it, the chicken and celery will become hard.—*Mrs. Ellis.*

Female Charms.—The Ladies' Magazine sums up the charms which are indispensable to loveliness, in four short paragraphs, one of which reads as follows:

"Secondly—A mouth that is able to say a good deal, and that sincerely. Its teeth kept as clean as possible; must be very good natured to servants, and friends who come unexpectedly to dinner."

MICHIGAN FARMER.

JACKSON.

MONDAY, JANUARY 15, 1844.

Legislative aid to Agriculture.

AT the close of an article upon this subject, in a late number of the Farmer, we promised further remarks—and as the question is apparently exciting considerable attention, we the more cheerfully resume its discussion. Our readers have probably already noticed the able remarks upon the subject, given in the communication of "A Farmer," published in our last. That commmunication, we have reason to believe, expresses opinions and wishes in accordance with those of a majority of the citizens of Michigan—and if so, something should be done to accomplish the object desired.

The subject has been favorably noticed by by some prominent journals, published in different sections of the State; and the general expression—the "public opinion"—seems to be favorable to the measure. The only objections that have come under our notice, (eminating from the public press,) are those given by the MONROE ADVCATE. In remarking upon the subject, after quoting that portion of our article alluding to the natural agricultural advantages of Michigan, that paper says:

"That being the fact, seems greatly to lessen the necessity of Legislative aid, since agriculture, without such aid, enjoys natural advantages superior to those belonging to other vocations and pursuits. Still, if the State can, without injustice to other interests, appropriate, as the Farmer intimates, $2000 a year, to enable Agricultural Societies to distribute small premiums, it might, perhaps, be very proper to do so. But, as a general thing, we dislike the bestowment of Legislative aid in support of any particular interest, especially so, in the present condition of our State finances."

These objections may appear valid to some, but they are far from overbalancing the benefits that would undoubtedly accrue from the suggested appropriation. In the consideration of this question, it should be borne in mind that the great mass of our population are farmers—that the main interest of the State, is agriculture—and that, consequently, all other branches of industry depend for success upon the prosperity of those engaged in the occupation of husbandry. And we therefore contend that, if the farming interest be promoted, the prosperity of the industrial classes generally, will ensue. We are not in favor of "the bestowment of Legislative aid in support of any particular interest," at the expense, or to the detriment, of other interests—yet, even if some branches of business were injured by it, we should, in urging this question, be advocating "the greatest good of the greatest number." But we should not advocate this measure at all, had we no reason to believe an appropriation similar to the one proposed would promote the interests of the various branches of industry, nearly in proportion to the number of inhabitants and the amount of capital employed in each.

The most serious and weighty objection to Legislative aid, at this time, is the condition of our State finances. This, we fear, will prevent favorable action upon the subject, by the present Legislature—but we hope it will receive the attention of that body: for the the question is one which can lose none of its interest or importance from the discussion of its merits by representatives of the people.—And we doubt not that the members of the Legislature—knowing the great benefits and advantages that have accrued to government and people, by the bestowment of Legislative aid to Agriculture in other States—would cheerfully make an appropriation to encourage Michigan agriculture, if generally asked for by their constituents.

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SINCE the above was written, we observe, by the proceedings of the Legislature, that the subject of encouragement to agriculture has been agitated in that body. In the proceedings of the Senate, on the 6th inst., we find the following paragraph:

"MR. SHEARER offered a preamble and resolution relative to the encouragement of agriculture; which were laid on the table, and ordered to be printed."

And in the proceedings of the same body, on the 10th instant, we notice that

"Mr. STARKEY called up the preamble and resolution offered by Mr. SHEARER, relative to the encouragement of Agriculture, which was referred to committee of the whole.

"And the Senate went into com. of the whole, Mr. Hart in the chair, upon the above resolution, and after some time spent thereon, reported the same back to the senate with some amendments; and asked to be discharged."

Among the proceedings of the House of Representatives, on the 9th, we observe that

"MR. VIDETO, from com. on agriculture, on resolution of inquiry into the propriety of rendertng some aid to Agricultural Societies, reported that the state of the treasury at present rendered such aid inexpedient, but recommended the subject to the consideration of the next legislature."

Hon. J. SHEARER is entitled to our warmest thanks for the valuable public documents he has kindly forwarded us. All similar favors duly appreciated and acknowledged.

Our next Volume.

THE attention of the friends and patrons of this journal is directed to the Prospectus of its second volume, published on the last page.—They they will there notice what we promise and hope to perform. And we respectfully and urgently request the farmers and friends of an improving husbandry in Michigan, to aid us in fulfilling our wishes and promises—that we may, if possible, render this the *cheapest* and *best* agricultural paper that can be furnished to farmers in this section of the West. The forthcoming volume of the Farmer will be so enlarged and improved as to make it far superior to the present—and as the paper is principally designed to benefit the farmers of Michigan, to them the publisher confidently looks for support. It is for them to decide whether they will sustain an agricultural journal published upon their own soil, and adapted to the particular cultivation of that soil, or send for a paper published abroad and designed for another latitude.

Subscription papers will soon be sent to Post-masters, local agents, and those patrons of the Farmer who have expressed a desire to aid in extending its circulation—when we trust they will each use some exertion to obtain accessions to our subscription list. In order that we may make the paper what it should be, a large increase of subscribers is necessary. Let us have them, and no exertion or expense shall be spared to fulfil our pledges relative to, and during, the forthcoming volume.

Book Farming.

"I pity the stupidity of the man who thinks that if we use books, we must close our eyes against the light that is beaming upon us from other sources; or that we must become mere theorisers, and the victims of ruinous experiments. What! does a man lose his common sense, his prudence and his judgment, whenever he takes up an agricultural paper, or opens a book upon husbandry? Can not one make himself acquainted with the doings of others, without losing his power to judge whether it would be well for him, in his circumstances, to copy their examples? Our brains are not so weak as this. The knowledge acquired from books does not make us all mad. But if it did, there would be more zest and true enjoyment in the learned mad-man's course, than in that of him who has learned out, and who thinks that books can not make him wiser. I ask what book farming is?—Common book farming is, learning by means of books, new facts, opinions, results of experiments, modes of operation, and the using such parts of the information, as can be turned to profitable account in our individual situations. If this be folly, we are content to be called fools. An agricultural paper will be worth to you every month, if not every week, more than its annual cost."

Exports of Detroit.

We are indebted to the politeness of Col. BROOKS, Collector of this port, for the following Statement of Exports from the port of Detroit during the navigation season of 1843:

Flour, 263,083 bbls.; Wheat, 106,181 bush.; Ashes, 9,656 casks; Fish, 6,760 bbls; Pork, 3,075 bbls; Bacon & Hams, 71,699 lbs; Lard, 27,776 lbs; Furs, value $100,000; Ground Slippery Elm Bark 72 bbls; Grass Seed, 3,345 bbls; Whiskey, 460 bbls; Wool, 98,950 lbs; Cranberries, 1,840 bbls; Michigan Glass, 2,383 boxes; Hides, value, $14,713; Lumber, 792,000; Shingles, 300,000; Staves, 612,739,000; Bees Wax, 7,768 lbs; Flax Seed, 544 bbls.; Soap & Candles, 147,000 lbs; Corn, 2582 bush; Oats, 275 bush; Hay, 62 tons; Hair, 23 bundles; Butter, 2,000 lbs; Lard Oil, 3 bbls; Straw Hats, 663; Ale & Beer, 3,000 bbls; Plaster, 49 bbls; Tallow, 3,450 lbs; Apples, 267 bbls; Cider, 60 bbls; Ginseng, 6 bbls; Stoves, 42; Plows, 20; Grind Stones, 195; Pig Iron, 5 tons; Beans, 288 bush; Paper, 35 bundles; Rags, 19,904 lbs; Hops, 1,895 lbs.—Total value, $1,586,381 38.

The quantity of flour now in store, 22d Dec. 1843, and receiving daily by rail roads and wagons, is estimated up to 31st Dec. 1843, at 36,917, making a total of shipped and on hand at the close of the year of 300,000 bbls. being an increase since 1842, of 113,740 bbls. It is believed that many minor articles exported from Detroit, are not included in this estimate, not having the means or time to obtain every article in detail. The quantity of Ashes exported is found to be more than double the quantity shipped in 1842. The quantity exported to Canada, of Flour, Pork, Beef, &c., independent of merchandise, is valued at $104,500.—*Free Press.*

COPPER ORES FROM LAKE SUPERIOR.—Several specimens of these ores, amounting in the whole to near 500 pounds, were recently received by the American Institute of this city, as a contribution from Walter Cunningham, Esq., of Copper Harbor, Lake Superior, and are now open to the examination of the curious and scientific at the rooms of the Institute. If our Government were to take immediate measures for a thorough and scientific exploration of the minerals in that region, it can hardly be doubted that the result would show an entire ability on our part to supply all the wants of the United States with copper from within our own territories. We understand Mr. Cunningham has forwarded specimens to the Secretary of War.—*N. Y. Tribune.*

IMPORTANT DISCOVERY.—A discovery has been made of a way of hardening wood, so as to give it almost the compactness of iron.—This, it is said, is done by exhausting the air from the wood by an air pump and then saturating it with iron and lime in solution.—Wood submitted to this process, has been used for some time on rail roads in England, and found so firm as to have been scarcely marked by the wheels of the cars.

Michigan Legislature.

THIS body convened and organized, on the 1st instant. EDWIN H. LOTHROP, of Kalamazoo, was elected Speaker of the House.

As a matter of interest to our readers, we subjoin the Standing Committees of the two branches:

SENATE.

On Claims—Redfield, Turner, Shearer.
Finance—Cust, Patterson, Green.
Judiciary—Green, Howell, Pratt.
Militia—Howell, Pratt, Richmond.
Internal Improvement—Richmond, Niles, Howell, Starkey, Thurber.
Roads & Bridges—Niles, Moody, Turner.
Public Instruction—Gray, Hart, Cust.
State Prison—Moody, Redfield, Mason.
Incorporations—Wilson, Green, Compton.
Divisions of Towns & Counties—Hart, Thurber, Gray.
Agriculture—Shearer, Compton, Niles.
Manufactures—Turner, Starkey, Hart.
Privileges & Elections—Thurber, Gray, Wilson.
Enrolled Bills—Patterson, Wilson, Moody.
State Library—Howell, Cust, Thurber.
Expiring Laws—Compton, Shearer, Starkey.
State Affairs—Starkey, Niles, Patterson.
Printing—Pratt, Richmond, Redfield.

HOUSE.

On Ways & Means—Walker, Power, Miller, Mosier, Hall.
Judiciary—Ramsdell, McLeod, Stone, Baldwin, Miller.
Internal Improvement—Joslin, Wilson, Vickery, Adams, White.
Claims—Vickery, Power, Delamater, Ames, Berry.
Elections—Fairfield, Griffin, Hall, Knowlton, Shurtz.
Banks & Incorporations—Murphy, Blindbury, Davis, Ferguson, Hawley.
Printing—Dunham, Barnard, Van Husen, Knight, Videto.
University, School, State, & Salt Lands.—H. N. Walker, Porter, Runyan, P. Power, M. Hall.
Federal Relations—Schoolcraft, H. N. Walker, Fairfield, Murphy, Livermore.
Education—McLeod, Barnard, Sheldon, Berry, Van Husen.
Engrossing & Enrollment—Pratt, Mosier, Stone, Knight, Rix.
Agriculture & Manufactures—Videto, Snell, Hayden.
Supplies & Expenditures—Rowland, Parmalee, Schoolcraft, Dunham, Ames.
Organization of Townships & Counties—Baldwin, Lamond, Leland.
State Prison—Livermore, Chester, Hibbard.
Roads & Bridges—Shurtz, Porter, Chester.
Militia—Rix, Reuble, Saunders.

LATE PLOUGHING.—The editor of the Buffalo Gazette says, he saw a farmer about six miles from that city, ploughing on the 26th ultimo.

SUMMARY.

COUNTERFEIT 5's on the Farmers & Mechanic's Bank of Ogdensburgh, are in circulation in Detroit. Look sharp.

THE number of letters which annually pass through the United States Post Office, is computed at 24,500,000.

TOBACCO smuggling into London is effectually carried on by making cables of the tobacco leaf, representing the ordinary ship's cable.

THE gross revenue of the State of New York this year, will be near three millions of dollars, which, after paying all expenses of government, interest on debt, and repairs on public works, will leave a large surplus.

GEN. JACKSON, at the last accounts from Nashville, was in very poor health.

As well might a mill go without wind, water, or steam, as a Printing Press without oil and money.

CHORR, convicted of murder at Ann Arbor, has been sentenced to be hung on the 15th of March next.

ONE of our old patrons, G. Rowland, Esq., has presented us with a golden pippin, which he raised on his farm, in Milton, Cass county, which measures 13 1-2 inches in circumference, and weighs 14 ounces. Five years hence we will set Michigan against the world for large and delicious fruit.—*Niles Rep.*

THE SALT WORKS.—We are happy to inform our readers that Mr. Lyon's Salt Works are again in operation, and are now able to supply all demands for the article. This will enable our farmers to save their *bacon*, at least.—*Grand Rapids Enquirer.*

CHURCH AND STATE.—The Honorable and Reverend Mr. Colquitt, Senator in Congress, from Georgia, was announced to preach at the Washington Methodist Church, on Sunday last. The Express says: At home, he has been known to preach a sermon, try a case in a court, as advocate, sit on a reference, marry a couple, christen a child, and make a stump speech—all between sunrise and bed time, in one day!—*N. Y. Sun.*

PRETTY GOOD FOR A WOMAN.—"What would you charge to knit me a pair of stockings such as those?" inquired a foppish young fellow of a lady who was kitting a thick, warm pair of woolens for winter.

"Would you have socks or stockings?" inquired the lady.

"I want them to come up over the calf," replied the inquirer.

"In that case it would take some time to estimate. I have never knit stockings to cover one's *whole* body."—*Exchange Paper.*

A WIFE.—Dr. Franklin recommends a young man in the choice of a wife, to select her fram a *bunch*, giving as his reason, that when there are many daughters, they improve each other, and from emulation, acquire more accomplishments and know more, and do more than a single child spoiled by parental kindness. This is a comfort to people blessed with large families.

SELECTIONS.

From the Boston Cultivator.

Care of Sheep.

Sheep should be well fed lest they become poor, in which case they will not only be liable to die during the long season they are kept from the ground, but if they live in a poor condition, they will not be profitable, as they can not have a good supply of milk for their lambs, and the feeble little things will be in danger of starvation; and should they survive, they will be small and stinted. And as to fleeces, they will be light, and what little there is will probably be lost in a great measure, before shearing time, inducing still further suffering to the poor unprotected animals. Where then is the profit of keeping sheep without the comforts of life? A little more expense than that which is necessary to keep the breath of life in the unfortunate creatures, will give a good profit in a large thrifty lamb, and a heavy fleece.

Though sheep should be kept in a good condition, bearing ewes should not be fed high, so as to become very fat, as all animals in this delicate situation are liable to suffer, and their offspring too, from their being very corpulent. With good clover hay and a supply of water, sheep will generally keep in good flesh; but on common hay, they need a little grain, or some roots; both are preferable. Grain or meal gives strength, affording a large amount of nutriment in a small bulk of food. Roots of most kinds are more conducive to the health of sheep than grain, as they afford a succulent food, resembling, in its effects, the green herbage of summer, and they produce a greater quantity of milk. As potatoes cause a very plentiful flow of milk, they should not be given to ewes for some time previous to their yeaning.

Sheep should be sheltered in winter from storms of every description, for when their fleeces become wet, they are a long time in drying, and the poor animals suffer loss of comfort and health. Yet they should not be confined to a warm close place, especially if a large number be together. It is best to provide a shelter from storms, well ventilated in mild weather, and allow them to go in when they please, or out in a yard to enjoy the pure air and take exercise. When it is stormy, the sheep should be confined in the shelter, if they are not disposed to go in of their own accord. We have known sheep to lie outside of their shelter when they had their own way, and the evening was mild, and in the morning they would be nearly buried in snow.

Sheep should have a good supply of pure water in winter. When they can have access to it, they will drink as often as other animals. If the watering place be at some distance, first drive them gently or induce them to follow for hay or other food. As they generally drink in about half an hour after being fed, they will go to the water in the morning before the cattle are out, and early in the evening after the cattle are housed. The exercise in going to the water will be an advantage. As sheep are kept mostly on dry food, a good supply of water is essential to their good condition, and to the production of a good supply of milk for their lambs.

In case of colds, which are indicated by a running at the nose, and sometimes at the eyes, and occasionally attended with a cough, give tar or pine boughs. In giving tar lay it in troughs or on boards, and strew on some salt and then it will be eaten readily.

Symphitum.

Our readers will recollect that we published in the Journal, last spring, a letter from Mr. Ezekiel Rich, of Troy, N. H., to the editor of the Keene Sentinel, giving an account of a new article of food, bearing the botanic name of *Symphitum*, but more generally known as *Cumfrey*. It was there stated that the root of this plant had never before, to the knowledge of the writer, been cultivated as food for man, or the top as hay for cattle. Mr. Rich stated that the product of the top of the plant was very great—two cuttings, in June and September, yielding six tons per acre of good fodder, if well made; and the root, which should be harvested only once in two years, producing 2,400 bushels per acre. The root he stated to be very nutritious, wholesome and palatable for man and beast.

The statement was of such a character as to excite some enquiry in our neighborhood, and Mr. Abednego Robinson, who is always foremost in making experiments for the improvement of agriculture, last spring took some pains to collect the scattered roots of the Cumfrey on his own farms in this town, and from those in his neighborhood, and succeeded in making a small bed of half a rod square.

A few weeks since, in company with some other gentlemen, we visited his premises.—The plat was set out in rows of about fifteen inches distant. The tops were thickly set, and we should judge that an acre like it would have produced three or four tons of tops when dried. Mr. Robinson has since informed us that he has cut and dried the tops of this plat, and found the weight to be 22 1-2 pounds.

This was cut some time in September. It had suffered the disadvantage of a very dry season, and scarcely started until July. There can not be much doubt, when the root is firm the next season, that it will at two cuttings each produce 25 pounds, which is about eight tons per acre. Mr. Robinson says his stock of all descriptions ate it greedily.

Another plat on dry ground did not succeed as well as this on moist ground; this, he thinks, may be imputed to extremely dry weather after setting it out. As the season has resulted, it is impossible to judge fairly what ground is most favorable to its culture. It is presumed that it may be cultivated on variable soils, and will produce in proportion to their quality.

We could not but observe the great beauty of this vegetable in its vigor, standing very erect, 2 1-2 feet high, full of leaves, and thick with bloom. Mr. R. thinks that the culture of this vegetable will prove a valuable acquisition to agricultural products.—*Portsmouth Journal*.

French and Belgian Farming.

We find in Mr. Wood's letters, the following account of the manner in which a French harvest is gathered. Such notices, by contrast, show most forcibly the wide difference existing between modern and ancient husbandry.

"A farmer of Western New York, who dashes into his hundred acre wheat field with a force sufficient to cut, rake, bind, and thresh it, in two or three days, would be infinitely amused with the primitive mode of harvesting in France. Here the wheat is all cut with the sickle, and then bound by women, who place the sheaves in a sort of scraggy rack upon the back of donkeys that move along behind the reapers. When the donkey gets loaded, (some eight or ten small sheaves in each of his wooden saddle bags,) he is marched off to the road, where the wheat is transferred to a clumsy wagon, and drawn lazily hence by three French ponies, tandem, to the granary! In this way, a dozen people consume a day in harvesting an acre. Two-thirds of the people I saw at work in the fields, were women."

As a contrast to the foregoing, we present the following from a letter written by a correspondent of the 'Tribune.' It shews conclusively the advantages of an improved husbandry:

"The country between Ostend and Bruges is, like nearly all Belgium, a perfect paradise for farmers. It is as level as a floor, and is most laboriously cultivated, till every inch of ground is compelled to produce its utmost.—It is one vast garden, and the tulips of the Duch fanciers do not receive more unceasing attention and nursing, than the turneps and cabbages of the Belgian farmers. The fields are covered with men and women, digging and weeding, and well they may, for in one district (St. Nicholas,) there are 5210 inhabitants to every square league. The superficial farmers of America, who imperfectly turn up the soil of a thousand acres, might take a profitable lesson from the care and skill which here enables every acre to support more than its man."—*Albany Cultivator*.

TO CURE SHEEP SKIN WITH THE WOOL ON.—Take one spoonful of alum and two of saltpetre; pulverize and mix well together, then sprinkle the powder on the flesh side of the skin, and lay the two flesh sides together, leaving the wool outside. Then fold up the skins as tight as you can, and hang them in a dry place. In two or three days, as soon as they are dry, take them down and scrape them with a blunt knife till clean and supple. This completes the process, and makes a most excellent saddle cover. If, when you kill mutton, you treat your skins in this way, you can get more for the wool and skin separately than if disposed of otherwise. Other skins which you desire to cure with the fur on, may be treated in the same way.

A LARGE ORCHARD.—Mr. Pell, of Ulster County, N. Y., has 20,000 apple trees in full bearing. He has sent to market 4,000 barrels of apples, many of which go to London, and there sell for nine dollars per barrel.

A Good Example.

We have great pleasure (says the editor of the "Farmer and Gardener," published at Cincinnati,) in publishing the following letter, from our friend and valuable correspondent, H. N. Gillett, of Quaker Bottom.—Our brother editors will opine with ourself, that such an example is not to be hid under a bushel; and we wish not only a perusal of the letter, but recommend a carrying out of its principles, to all those who have the means and duly appreciate the advantages to the community at large of properly supporting the agricultural papers through the length and breadth of the land.

Dear Sir:—With much pleasure I take up my pen, to acknowledge the receipt of the welcome visitor that has been so long and so anxiously looked for—the Farmer and Gardener. And, as you appear to be disposed to feast us on the rich productions of your pen, I think justice demands at least a small contribution from the products of our labor, in addition to the subscription price of your paper. Being aware of the tardiness of the farmers in this western country to encourage agricultural papers, and of the scarcity of money, and also of the fact that a man cannot afford to work without pay, I am willing to contribute my mite in the shape of products of the soil. I have sent you a barrel of late fall apples, for cooking, eating, &c. I was under the necessity of picking them before they had attained their full size, in order to ship them on my brother's flat boat, and of course they are destitute of that fine rich flavor that fruit possesses when fully matured on the tree.—I will give you directions for cooking them. Take a tin tube or guage three fourths of an inch in diameter and punch out the core; fill the orifice with equal parts of loaf sugar and good fresh butter, bake thoroughly: when cold, eat with or without milk for supper, in the shape of apple dumplings for dinner, and pies for breakfast. Perhaps some of them will be eatable without cooking, when quite mellow.

You will find two winter pears; split or slice them lengthwise, and bake well; eat when cold, or preserve with loaf sugar as quinces. Also, two or three French Sugar Pears—they are now ripe, and I fear they will rot before you can get them.

The apples are of the following varieties: Prolific Beauty, Honey Greening, Cooper Apple, Eighteen Ounce Pippin, Talman Sweeting, Blue Pearmain, Black Heart, and Long Pearmain. The apples are not fair specimens of their kinds, having been gleaned from the trees after the crop had been gathered and shipped to the southern market.

Yours truly, H. N. GILLETT.

SIR HUMPHREY DAVY says the cause of the redness of the sky at sunset is, that the air being then dry, refracts more red or heat-making rays; and as dry air is not perfectly transparent, they are again reflected in the horizon.

POTATOS, according to the Journal of Commerce, are now selling, in New-York, for 75 cents a bushel.

Diversity of Climate and Seasons.

The Albany Argus, after collecting many instances of the weather in different parts of the Union, in regard to dryness and moisture thus truly remarks:

"According to the usual laws of nature, it is impossible for a drought to pervade our whole country. Neither can we readily have a famine as long as the cultivation of the soil is attended to. Local and partial scarcity may prevail, but what is the loss of one section, is frequently the gain of some more fortunate section. When the North is parched with drought, the West or the South is rejoicing in fertilizing rains. When the summer is cool in New York and New England, it is frequently the warmer and more genial in Michigan, Wisconsin, or Ohio; and even a drought which would burn all vegetation to a crisp here, does not exhaust the crop-growing energies of the black muck of the Western prairies, or the woodlands. Their new and virgin soil is comparatively more independent of the dews and rains of heaven. This is the reason why the Great West presents so inviting a field to the thrifty, calculating, and industrious farmer. He can place more reliance upon the intrinsic qualities of the soil and upon his own exertions, and seems less dependent for a return upon the uncertain events of rain and sun.

"We have known wheat to ripen on the Western prairies, in such cloudy weather as would, in the Eastern States, on our thin and comparatively impoverished soil, give no fullness to the berry—the exceeding richness and natural warmth of the Western soil, in a measure supplying the absence of a warm and ripening sun."

SUGAR CANE has been successfully cultivated by Mr. M'Mullen, in Galveston, Texas. The stalks are large and juicy. He thinks that land in the vicinity of that city, even including prairie ground, will produce as large a quantity of sugar to the acre as the common sugar lands of Louisiana.

A LEARNED doctor has given it as his opinion, that tight lacing is a public benefit, inasmuch as it kills off the foolish girls, and leaves the wise ones for women!

SOUTHDOWN & LEICESTER SHEEP.

THE Subscriber has about 200 SOUTHDOWN and LEICESTER SHEEP, which he will sell for cash—or exchange for farming horses, or oats. Enquire at the National Hotel, Detroit. THOS. CHASE.

Detroit, Oct. 17, 1843.

CASH FOR WHEAT AND FLOUR!

THE Subscribers will pay CASH for Wheat and Flour at the ware-house of Sackett & Everett, near the Rail-road Depot, Jackson.

LAWSON, HOWARD, & Co.

WANTED!

IN exchange for the Michigan Farmer—Wheat, Corn, Oats, Butter, Lard, Beef, Pork, Potatoes, WOOD and MONEY. Those who have promised us these commodities, are requested to bring them on immediately. We are nearly out of the two last mentioned articles.

Farmer Office, Dec. 1, 1843.

BANK NOTE TABLE.

CORRECTED FOR THE MICHIGAN FARMER.

Mic	/1	Ptte. Relief N.	12 1-2 dis
F. & M. B'k,	par	Erie Relief Notes,	25 dis
B'k of St. Clair,	par	*New York, New Jersey and New England*	par
Mich. Insurance Co.	par	Bank of Buffalo	5 dis
Oakland County b'k	—	Clinton County	50 dis
River Raisin b'k,	par	Watervliet	50 dis
Mer. b'k Jack. co	broke	Commer. b'k Buff.	35 dis
Bank of Michigan	75 dis	Com. b'k Oswego	50 dis
State Scrip,	10 dis	Bank of Lyons,	50 dis
Ohio.		B'k America, Buff.	40 dis
Specie paying bk's	1 dis	B'k Commerce, do	40 dis
B'k of Cincinati	broke	B'k of Oswego,	40 dis
Chillicothe,	10 dis	B'k of Lodi,	5 dis
Cleveland,	55 dis	Binghamptou,	40 dis
Com. Bank Sciota	50 dis	Cattaraugus County,	40 dis
Lake Erie	30 dis	Erie, do	60 dis
Far's B'k, Canton	60 dis	Mech. B'k Buff	50 dis
Granville,	80 dis	Mer. Ex. B'k,	50 dis
Hamilton,	50 dis	Millers b'k Clyde	20 dis
Lancaster,	50 dis	Phœnix b'k Buff.	40 dis
M. & Trader's Cin.	15 dis	Tonawanda,	40 dis
Manhattan,	90 dis	U. S. b'k Buffalo	35 dis
Miami Exp Co.	75 dis	Western N. Y.	35 dis
Urbana B'king Co.	75 dis	Staten Island	55 dis
Indiana.		Olean,	40 dis
St. b'k & Branches,	3 dis	Allegany County	60 dis
State Scrip,	50 dis	St. Law. (Stock and Real Estate Notes,)	60 dis
Illinois.		St. Law. st'k notes	80 dis
State Bank,	65 dis	State b'k, Buffalo	75 dis
Shawnee Town,	65 dis	Wash. b'k N Y.	75 dis
Kentucky.		Union b'k Buff.	30 dis
All good Banks	4 dis	*Canada.*	
Pennsylvania.		All	to 3 dis
Specie paying,	1 dis	*Wisconsin.*	
Erie,	6 dis	Frie and Marine Insurance Co. Checks,	4 dis

YPSILANTI HORTICULTURAL GARDEN AND NURSERY.

This establishment now comprises fourteen acres closely planted with trees and plants, in the different stages of their growth. *Twenty thousand trees* are now of a suitable size for setting.

The subscribers offer to the public a choice selection of Fruit Trees, of French German, English and American varieties, consisting of Apples, Pears, Plumbs Peaches Cherries, Nactarines, Quinces Currants, Gooseberries, Raspberries, Grape Vines, and Strawberries, Ornamental Trees, Shrubs, Plants, Hardy Roses, Vines, Creepers, Herbaceous Perrennial Plants, Bulbous Roots, Splendid Peonies, Double Dahlias, &c.—The subscribers have also a large Green House, well filled with choice and select plants in a good condition.

All orders by mail or otherwise, will be promptly attended to, and trees carefully selected and packed in mats; and if desired, delivered at the depot in Ypsilanti.

Catalogues can be had at the Nursery.

E. D. & Z. K. LAY

Ypsilanti, April 25, 1843.

1843.

LAWSON, HOWARD & CO.

PRODUCE, COMMISSION AND FORWARDING MERCHANTS,

(At the Ware-house lately occupied by W. T. Pease, foot of Shelby street,) DETROIT;

WILL make liberal cash advances, on *Flour, Ashes* and other *Produce* consigned to them for sale or shipment to Eastern Markets, and will contract for the transportotion of the same. 6-1y

*** ALSO, will make like advances and contracts at the Ware-house of SACKETT & EVERETT, Jackson.

PLOUGHS! PLOUGHS!!

The best patterns of Small and Breaking-Up Ploughs can be found at the Jackson Steam Furnace.

Jackson, April 1, 1843.

FRESH Farm and Garden Seeds, warranted of the first quality, for sale by DUNN & GROSS, No. 6 Main street, St. Louis, Missouri.

The collection consists of Farm and Garden Seeds—Red and White Clover, Lucerne (or French Clover,) English Perrennial, Rye Grass, Blue Grass, Orchard Grass, Red Top or Herds Grass. Also: Mangel Wurtzel and French Sugar Beet, Ruta Baga Turnep, &c.—and a variety of Agricultural Implements, &c., for sale at the MISSOURI SEED STORE.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Agriculture and other Interests.

"Although agriculture is one of the earliest employments, and an essential ingredient in civilization, it is by no means an independent calling. Every human pursuit, like man himself, is dependent upon its fellow. Agriculture, manufactures, and commerce, the three great pursuits of mankind, are equally honorable employments, all conducive to the public good, and each essential to the prosperity of the other. Commerce could not exist without agriculture and manufactures. Unless the sails, the cordage, the anchor, the ship itself, were manufactured, how could the ocean be traversed? Without agriculture, how could the hemp be grown, and the ship provisioned? And what is the cargo of the merchant, but the product of the soil, or the fabrics of the workshop? Commerce is entirely dependent upon agriculture and manufactures. The ship could not be built without the mechanic; the canvas could not float without the assistance of the plow.

"There is also an immediate and inseparable connection between agriculture and manufactures. The mechanic must furnish the tools—must manufacture the implements of husbandry, or the labors of the husbandman will fail. The plow must be constructed before the furrow can be turned; the scythe must be manufactured before the grass of the meadow can be laid low. But what calls for the construction of the plow, the scythe, or the sickle, but the wants of the husbandman? And what sustains the mechanic while contructing these implements, but the products of the soil? The mechanic or manufacturer could not subsist without the produce of the farmer; the farmer must have the tools, the clothing, the shelter, furnished by the manufacturer or mechanic. Agriculture and manufactures are intimately connected, and whenever by their mutual aid and succor, they rise and flourish, commerce becomes necessary for the interchange of their commodities. The man who, from undue attachment to either of these pursuits, would separate it from the others, that it might stand 'alone in its glory,' would show no more wisdom than he, who, from partiality to one member of the human system, would separate it from the body, by which it is nourished and sustained."

Calumny.—Station is a sort of pillory, and a man who takes an office, voluntarily sets himself up as a mark, at which every low minded person can level his abuse. There have been no exceptions to this; for it is impossible for any man to escape censure, who stands high enough for notice. Insignificance is a better shield against calumny than all the great and good qualities that were ever in the human breast.

Gentlemen, every body knows that at the foundation of all that is important in human life, lies this great business—the cultivation of the earth. If it were for his sins that man was condemned to till the land, it was the most merciful judgment that Almighty benignity could have inflicted upon him."—*Webster.*

The Bread Fruit.

A friend, recently from the Society Islands, has presented to us a specimen of the celebrated Bread Fruit of that climate:

"That tree, which in unfailing stores,
The staff of life spontaneous pours,
And to those southern islands yields,
The produce of our labored fields."

The bread tree is one of the most valuable productions of the fertile islands of the Pacific. There are about fifty varieties of it. It produces three or four crops annually, and is seldom without ripe fruit on its branches. It grows spontaneously, and furnishes the principal food to the natives. The fruit is eaten cooked or green, and is sometimes fermented and beaten into a kind of paste. The tree furnishes a valuable timber for the canoes, houses and furniture of the inhabitants; its bark is wrought into clothing, and it affords a resinous substance which is used for making tight the seams of the canoes—*Prov. Journal.*

Things of Importance.—To have your cellar well secured against frost; your windows and doors in good repair; your woodhouse with a stock of fuel cut and piled in it; your yards warm and comfortable; your stables clean and well ventilated; your farm implements carefully cleaned, repaired, and housed; your district school attended to, and every thing provided to facilitate education; useful and instructive reading for long winter evenings; a kind and benevolent heart to the poor; plenty of food for your animals; the receipt of an agricultural journal; and though last, not least, exemption from debt, and a conscience at peace with God and man.—*Cult.*

At the beginning of a new year, ascertain the amount of your expenses during the year past, and the loss and gain, and record it. Having arrived at this important knowledge you will imitate the prudent traveller, who always keeps in view where he is next to move. You will then look forward and calculate how and in what way you shall best meet and prosecute the business of the year begun.

THE MARKETS.

Jackson, Jan. 15, 1844.

The prices of Wheat and Pork have varied considerably since our former quotations. Some lots of the former have been sold as high as 60 cents per bushel—and of the latter at $4 50 per hundred. This was principally owing to competition among buyers.

Wheat is selling, to day, at 56 a 59 cents—market firm at 56. Flour, retail, $3 25—wholesale, $2 75.

Pork, $3 00 a $3 50. Corn, 31 cents—Oats, 25c.—Potatoes, 25c.—Butter, 12 1-2c.—Eggs, 12 1-2c.

Detroit, Jan. 13, 1844.

Flour, $3 38; Pork, $3 37 a $3 75; Potatoes, 25c.—Oats, 25c.—Eggs, 16c.—Wood, hard, $1 75.

New York, Jan 6, 1844.

Flour.—Ohio and Michigan, firm at $4,62 1-2.

Ashes.—Pots, $4 50, a 4 56; Pearls, $5 12 1-2.—Stock at Inspectors warehouse, Jan 6: Pots, 5,440 bbls. Pearls, 8,152. Total, 13,592 barrels.

PUBLISHER'S DEPARTMENT.

MICHIGAN FARMER.

NEW VOLUME AND NEW SERIES!

ENLARGED AND IMPROVED.

The Proprietor of the Michigan Farmer, announces to the friends and patrons of that journal, that at the commencement of the second volume, on the 15th of February ensuing, it will be considerably enlarged and otherwise materially improved. It is believed that the improvements contemplated,—in size, style and contents,—will greatly increase the value and usefulness of the paper, and render it well worthy the hearty support of the farming community—not only of Michigan, but adjacent sections of the West.

The paper will, as heretofore, be chiefly devoted to promoting the interests of WESTERN AGRICULTURE and HORTICULTURE: but portions of its pages will be appropriated to the MECHANIC ARTS, DOMESTIC ECONOMY, and such other subjects as are interesting to Farmers and Mechanics.

The Contents generally will be as follows:—Original Papers from contributors and correspondents; Editorial Articles; Selections from leading agricultural journals, presenting matter of the most importance to Michigan farmers; and Departments devoted to the Mechanic Arts, and Domestic Economy. Each number will contain a correct Bank Note List, Review of the Markets, &c. The paper will be frequently embellished with splendid WOOD ENGRAVINGS of agricultural and mechanical implements, &c.

The *Michigan Farmer* is now permanently established. Its character is that of an eminently useful and practical journal—owing chiefly to the contributions of its numerous able contributors and correspondents, most of whom are practical farmers.—And, in addition to the present large number of correspondents, many other practical and scientific gentlemen, of ability and experience, have been engaged as contributors to the the forthcoming volume. The Farmer will contain, during the year, original articles from OVER ONE HUNDRED correspondents, residing principally in Michigan,—which will render its pages far more interesting and valuable to *Michigan Farmers*, than those of several eastern agricultural papers.

The Farmer will be published semi-monthly, (the 1st and 15th of each month,) on fine paper and good type, each number containing 8 large quarto pages, with a title page and index at the close of the volume, complete for binding. Terms, $1 00 per annum, in advance: to Agents and Clubs, Six copies for $5; Ten copies for $7; Fourteen copies for $10; Twenty copies for $15, and Thirty copies for $20.

☞ The friends and subscribers of the Farmer are requested to aid in extending its usefulness, by introducing it to the notice of their neigbors. And all Postmasters and others who have heretofore kindly assisted in furthering this enterprise, will greatly oblige us by continuing to receive and forward subscriptions to the Farmer. Address, free or post paid,

D. D. T. MOORE,
January, 1843. Jackson, Mich.

☞ Editors who copy the above Prospectus and call attention to the same, shall receive the entire volume of the Farmer, without an exchange, by sending us their papers containing the notice.

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS AND OTHERS.

Mr. D. L. LA TOURETTE is our traveling agent for Oakland, Wayne, Livingston, Lapeer, and Genesee counties—and part of Washtenaw.

Mr. GEORGE DELL, for Hillsdale, Lenawee, Monroe, and the northern part of Washtenaw.

Mr. THOMAS MEDBERY, for Barry, Branch, Eaton, Ingham, Kalamazoo, and St. Joseph Counties.

Wanted, as traveling agents for the Michigan Farmer, a few active and intelligent young men, well recommended, to whom a fair commission will be given. It is believed that enterprising young men can render this a profitable employment, during the winter months.